

BRITISH SHOWJUMPING SELECTION POLICY
2026 Veterans European Championship
CH-EU-V-S

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This Selection Policy (the “Policy”) covers selection of the team for the Veteran European Championships (CH-EU-V-S). The selection policy is worked out in agreement and consultation with the British Showjumping Performance Committee.

2. AIMS

2.1. The specific aims of this Selection Policy are:

To build a team capable of achieving a medal for Great Britain at the Veteran European Championships (CH-EU-V-S)

3. CONFIDENTIALITY

3.1 It is vitally important for the integrity of the Selection Policy and out of respect for the athletes, owners, selectors, staff and other interested parties that there is at all times a high degree of confidentiality relating to information which may have a bearing on selection.

3.2 Any member of the Selection Panel, whether voting or non-voting, who breaks this confidentiality may be removed from the Selection Panel. All confidential information, conversations and discussions will be identified as such.

4. SELECTION

4.1 The Veteran Chef d’Equipe may select in consultation with the Pony and Children Chef d’Equipe/s (Selectors) and Performance Manager if required.

5. POLICY FORMATION

5.1. The British Showjumping Selection Policy is compiled in consultation with the Selectors and Performance Manager and is approved by the BS Performance Committee.

6. CHANGES IN POLICY

6.1. In the event of exceptional circumstances beyond the control of BS, including, but not limited to, disease outbreak in horses or humans, war or terrorism, the Selectors reserve the right to make the decision, following consultation with the Chief Executive of BS, either to change or amend the Selection Policy or the procedure, which might include withdrawing the British Team from competition. Any amended Policy or change/withdrawal of the team will be communicated to all relevant athletes by email within 24 hours of any amendment and will be published on the BS website.

7. ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY FOR CONSIDERATION

7.1. The BS Performance Department will ensure that each athlete available for selection is eligible to represent Great Britain including being:

- The athlete is a citizen of the United Kingdom and holds a current valid British passport and/ or has obtained or procured the right to remain permanently in the United Kingdom or has been granted humanitarian protection in the United Kingdom and is eligible under the FEI Sport Nationality regulations article 119;
- The athlete is a full and active member of BS and the horse is fully registered with BS and that both have been granted a license by the National Federation of Great Britain to compete in international events in accordance with Articles 113 and 117 of the FEI General Regulations and any minimum performance standard as required per event;

- All riders must be in the year in which they are 45 years or older
- Riders must not have taken part in any International competition in the current and/or previous year, in which the height of the obstacles indicated in the schedule for the initial round exceeds 1.35m
- Horses must be 6yo (in their 6th year) or older.
- Eligible under any applicable anti-doping code (i.e. not be serving a competition ban as a result of a proven doping or controlled medication violation, or other breach of ethical conduct, nor in receipt of a lifetime funding ban from UK Sport).

8. SELECTION CRITERIA

8.1. GENERAL SELECTION CRITERIA

The Selectors will take the following criteria into account when making their decisions and have due regard to the relevant statistical evidence available to them.

8.1.1. The combination's results will be a prime factor in selection but weighting will be given to the standing of the competition, the difficulty of the courses, the surface and conditions, the competitiveness of the fields and the rate of progress of the combination. The Selectors will monitor the results from International Shows and National shows. Results from AJA shows will be particularly important for combinations that have few results. Results which replicate the competition environment to be selected for will have a higher weighting, along with combinations double clear rounds having priority over other results.

8.1.2. The physical conditions in which the Shows will be held and the potential impact of those conditions on the athlete/horse combinations' performance.

8.1.3. The fitness and soundness of the horse. The advice of a British Team Veterinary surgeon or another Veterinary surgeon may be sought.

8.1.4. The fitness of athletes to compete to their full potential. The professional opinion of an independent medical practitioner may be sought to verify the fitness of the athlete for selection. Athletes are obliged to notify the Chef d'Equipe of any change in their health status at any time after selection.

8.1.5. The willingness and demonstration of the athlete and their accredited owners, grooms, coaches, home team's or others that may be assisting to contribute positively to the Team environment on and off the field of play and the Objective of the Selection Policy.

8.1.6. Ability to produce peak performances in conditions similar to the Show.

8.1.7. Riders results on an athlete's other horses.

8.2. The Selectors may ask athletes and horses to participate in specific training, tests or competitions where they deem this appropriate and necessary prior to selection and the Chef d'Equipe will inform the athletes concerned of the details regarding these requirements.

9. SELECTION PROCESS –

10.1. The Selectors will discuss the available combinations in order to select the Team, Individuals and reserves as required. The Selectors may be briefed by the BS Performance Department or other BS approved Human and Equine SSM staff as to an athlete's or horse's fitness for selection. This information will be coordinated by the Chef d'Equipe and/or Performance department and will be delivered in summary format and will not include the confidential detail.

10.2. VETERINARY MATTERS

- As part of the selection process the advice from a BS approved official Veterinary surgeon may be taken into consideration.
- There may be an official inspection which all horses must attend and where a blood test may be taken. Alternatively, official inspections may take place at athletes' yards or at a competition. If a horse is based abroad then an inspection will be arranged by the selectors at the riders' expense.

10.3 ATHLETE FITNESS

The fitness of athletes to compete to their full potential at shows may be taken into consideration by the Selectors when selecting Teams and reserves. The advice of the World Class Programme's (WCP) lead for HSSM may be sought if needed and athletes may be asked to undergo a formal fitness assessment by the WCP Doctor.

10.4 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE TEAMS OR INDIVIDUAL(S) FOR THE SHOWS

The Selectors will seek to announce selection for Shows as early as possible and in accordance with the Schedule. The Selectors may have to select a list of athlete / horse combinations before this announcement in order to submit *Nominated Entries*.

11. POST SELECTION

11.1. TEAM RUNNING ORDER (CSIO only)

The Chef d'Equipe will decide the Team running order. The Chef d'Equipe will inform athletes accordingly. The Chef d'Equipe may make amendments to the Team running order in consultation with the Selectors (if available) and if deemed necessary to do so.

11.2. MAINTAINING FORM

Athletes should note that selection decisions are subject to the combinations retaining fitness / performance levels in a suitable training and competition programme, to be agreed with the Chef d'Equipe. Loss of fitness/form and/or failure to follow this programme or to discuss amendments to the programme with the Chef d'Equipe could lead to the combination being substituted (see substitution below).

11.3. SUBSTITUTION

- The rules governing substitution will be published in the Schedule for each Show. The Selector(s) may substitute combinations in accordance with these rules. However, the reason for a substitution must only be because either, the athlete is unfit to compete due to injury or illness or there is a strong veterinary case for substitution or the performance of the Team member has declined to such an extent that for the success of the Team or the achievement of the objectives, a substitution is vital.
- In the case of an athlete being considered medically unable to compete the decision will be made by the Chef d'Equipe in consultation with the selectors following an examination by a Doctor; this may involve the athlete being asked to jump fence(s) on their Team horse; being unfit to compete is best described as "not being able to ride their horse in a manner which allows the athlete to produce the standard of performance at which they were selected".
- In the case of a horse being considered unable due to veterinary reasons to compete or unable to compete to the performance standard anticipated this decision will be made by the Chef d'Equipe following an examination by the British Team Veterinary Surgeon or other BS approved official Veterinary surgeon and in consultation with the Selectors if available.

11.4. CODE OF CONDUCT

Athletes, owners, grooms and athletes' home teams are expected to follow the principles of the British Showjumping International Code of Conduct (<http://www.britishshowjumping.co.uk/files/MH2018V8HBSept1.pdf>). Athletes and their support Teams are expected to behave at all times in a manner that does not bring the sport, BS or BEF into disrepute.

11.5. WITHDRAWALS

Once an athlete has committed to compete at an international show (verbally / in writing / by email, to the Selectors or BS Performance Department) they are expected to make every effort to participate. After Definite entries a veterinary and / or medical certificate will be required before a withdrawal will be accepted. Failure to follow this procedure could impact on future selection.

11.6. CLEAN SPORT

Selection is subject to compliance with BS/BEF, FEI and WADA Rules on doping and medication control for Human and Equine.

12. GENERAL

12.1. DISCRETION - In exceptional circumstances, the Selectors will be entitled within the provisions of this policy to exercise their discretion to achieve the objective where it is reasonable to do so.

12.2. WEATHER - The weather conditions likely at the Show have been considered in selection, however, should there be drastic change for some reason there might be cause for alterations to be made to the Team and / or the Team running order in which case everyone concerned will be notified and the explanation given as soon as practicable.

12.3. CANCELLATION/POSTPONEMENT - In the event of cancellation the relevant parties will be notified straightaway. In the event of postponement a situation might arise where a new and / or different Team, Individual(s), Reserves need to be selected, in which case all parties will be notified and normal procedure for selection will be followed.

13. COMMUNICATION

13.1. The Selection Policy will be placed on the BS website and hard copies will be available on request from the BS Performance Department.

13.2. Enquiries about the Selection Policy can be made either in writing or on the telephone to the BS Performance Department.

13.3. POINTS OF CONTACT

13.3.1 The key points of contact relating to this Selection Policy are the Chef d'Equipe, Performance Committee and BS Performance department.

13.3.2 The point of contact for athletes who are competing at shows and who wish to discuss their intended competition plans will be the relevant Chef d'Equipe.

14. OBJECTION PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

14.1 The decision of the Selectors is final and not subject to an appeals process. The team of athletes or reserves selected will not be amended or changed unless there is clear evidence that the Selection Criteria and Procedures have not been followed correctly, in accordance with this Policy, or that there has been a material error of fact.

14.2 Objections to the Selection Decision can only be considered on the following grounds:

14.2.1 That the Selectors have failed to comply with the procedural requirements in this Selection Policy, or

14.2.2 That the Selectors have made their decision based on a material error of fact, which would have impacted on the Selection Decision.

14.3 An athlete wishing to formally object to the Selection Decision should raise their objection in writing to the BS Chief Executive and must do so within 48 hours of being notified of the decision. The Objection must set out the grounds, as detailed in 11.2 above, and include sufficient evidence and any other documentation replied upon. Objections received outside of this time limit, or that fail to meet the criteria set out in 11.2, will be rejected.

14.4 The BS Chief Executive shall, on receipt of this Objection, investigate the matter further and may seek to bring together all parties for a 'without prejudice' discussion that may, if all are agreed, take the form of a facilitated mediation meeting.

14.5 Following the initial investigation and any 'without prejudice' discussion, the BS Chief Executive will refer the Objection to a Review Panel, consisting of the BS Chief Executive, BS Chair and one Independent Non-Executive Director to review the decision.

14.6 Members of the Review Panel must not have any conflict of interest with any of the athletes considered for selection. In the event of a conflict of interest arising, the CEO may nominate another member of the BS Board of Directors to review the decision.

14.7 The Review Panel may either:

14.7.1 Refer the decision back to the Selectors,

14.7.2 Replace their own decision for the purposes of Selection, or

14.7.3 Reject the grounds for the Objection.

14.8 The Review Panel will make a written decision (without an oral hearing) based on the information provided within 72 hours of the referral of the Objection. Their decision shall be final and binding, and not subject to any further review or appeal.